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Remember that term-limits pledge House Republicans made all the rage some years back? It was the last item listed in their 1994 "Contract With America."

Well, now comes the "Earmark Reform Pledge," a list of 10 "common-sense reforms" addressing how Congress spends taxpayer dollars. GOP fiscal conservatives hope they have better luck promoting it than they did with term limits — something many members ended up embracing, but few actually followed through on.

The "no-tax-increase pledge, I think, is the model we're trying to follow here," observed Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif., a Republican Study Committee member and leading critic of wasteful spending.

Campbell will be one of the first to sign the pledge Tuesday when it's unveiled at a news conference held by the Council of Citizens Against Government Waste.

Members who sign it will have to fully disclose on their congressional Web sites all requests for special funding and tax benefits. But more important than full disclosure, says Campbell, is the fifth item in the pledge — a promise by members not to request earmarks or tax breaks for specific private entities.

As an example of the problem, Campbell points to the fiscal 2008 Defense spending bill (HR 3222), which he says contains nearly \$2 billion for 600 different companies.

"All 600 of those earmarks would not be allowed under this pledge," he says.

